GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:48
ANSWERED ON:19.11.2007
VIOLATION OF GUIDELINES BY PRIVATE OPERATORS
Reddy Shri Karunakara G.

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the private operators charge different rates from their mobile phone subscribers and these rates are higher than the rates charged by the Government companies;

(b) if so, whether it is a violation of the guidelines and directions of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by the Government against the erring companies?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.48 FOR 19TH NOVEMBER, 2007 REGARDING VIOLATION OF GUIDELINES BY PRIVATE OPERATORS

(a) Both the private operators and Government owned telecom companies charge different rates from their mobile phone subscribers under various tariff plans. Since, the tariff plans are bundled with various services, a comparison between various operators' tariff plans across the country is difficult.

(b) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) under TRAI Act, 1997 has been mandated to fix and regulate telecom tariff. TRAI has also been empowered to review and modify telecom tariff. TRAI vide its Telecommunication Tariff Order (TTO) 1999 has adopted a policy of forbearance except for the tariff of the three categories viz., rural subscribers, roaming charges for cellular services and leased circuits. Since the policy provides flexibility to all telecommunication service providers to fix tariff, there is no violation of TRAI's guidelines and directions in this regard.

(c) & (d) Do not arise.